

Recreational Boating Industry Applauds NAFTA Breakthrough, Calls For Additional Action

NMMA Urges the Administration to Build on this Momentum and Bring Canada Back to the Table

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Thom Dammrich, President of the National Marine Manufacturers Association (NMMA), issued the following statement after President Trump announced that the United States and Mexico reached an agreement to revise the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA):

“President Trump’s announcement on a tangible NAFTA agreement with Mexico is welcome news and an important step toward modernizing and preserving the trade pact. Maintaining the trilateral agreement is critical for the continued health and success of American manufacturing, including the recreational boating industry. To that end, we urge the administration to capitalize on this momentum and immediately bring Canada – our industry’s largest export market – back into the fold, finalize the deal, and send it to Congress for approval.

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“Additionally, President Trump should leverage the goodwill created by this progress and work with both countries to resolve other trade disputes, especially retaliatory tariffs. Earlier this summer, Canada and Mexico responded to the administration’s Section 232 tariffs on aluminum and steel by applying punitive tariffs on U.S. boats, among other American made products. As a result, sales to both countries – which collectively account for nearly half of U.S. boat exports annually – have all but dried up.

“As the administration continues to move the ball forward on NAFTA, they should also focus on forging lasting trade deals with the European Union and China. President Trump should be commended for his commitment to ensuring American businesses and workers receive a fair shake in these jurisdictions, and it is now time to turn words into concrete actions. A good starting place would be to remove all retaliatory tariffs and tariffs that run contrary to the objective of punishing parties responsible for unfair trade practices.

“While we are pleased that NAFTA negotiations are headed in a positive direction, it is premature to celebrate. Proud domestic industries like recreational boat manufacturing remain in the trade war’s crosshairs and more work is needed to secure better deals for American workers and businesses. We urge the administration to swiftly and simultaneously finalize the trilateral NAFTA revamp and address other outstanding issues with key trading partners – the 650,000 American jobs supported by our industry are counting on it.”